

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 10, and please CANCEL claims 2, 6, 9, and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A high density recording medium with a super-resolution near-field structure including a sequential stack of a second dielectric layer, a recording layer, a protective layer, a mask layer, a first dielectric layer, and a polycarbonate layer, wherein the mask layer comprises high-melting-point metal-oxide-WO_x to generate a near field by optically or thermally inducing physical changes in the crystalline structure and optical properties of the WO_x high-melting-point metal-oxide.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A high density recording medium with a super-resolution near-field structure including a sequential stack of a second dielectric layer, a recording layer, a protective layer, a mask layer, a first dielectric layer, and a polycarbonate layer, wherein the mask layer comprises TaO_x or AuO_x to generate a near field by optically or thermally inducing physical changes in the crystalline structure and optical properties of the TaO_x or AuO_x high-density-recording medium of claim 1, wherein the high-melting-point metal-oxide for the mask layer is TaO_x or AuO_x which shows irreversible physical changes.

4. (CANCELED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The high density recording medium of claim 1, further comprising a reflective layer containing silver or aluminum below disposed on an opposite side of the second dielectric layer from the recording layer.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The high density recording medium of claim 3,

further comprising a reflective layer containing silver or aluminum below-disposed on an opposite side of the second dielectric layer from the recording layer.

8. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A high density recording medium with a super-resolution near-field structure including a sequential stack of a second dielectric layer, a recording layer, a protective layer, a mask layer, a first dielectric layer, and a polycarbonate layer, wherein the mask layer consists of SiO_x ~~comprises silicon oxide to generate a near field by optically or thermally inducing physical changes in the crystalline structure and optical properties of the silicon oxide.~~

9. **(CANCELED)**

10. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The high density recording medium of claim 8, further comprising a reflective layer containing silver or aluminum below-disposed on an opposite side of the second dielectric layer from the recording layer.

11. **(CANCELED)**